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ORIGIN AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00

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DRAFTED BY: AF/C: JELEADER  
APPROVED BY: AF/C: AXRENDER  
AF/C: KCAISTON

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TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

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ADDIS AND DAR FOR A/S SHATTUCK PARTY; YAOUNDE FOR DATT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL PGOV PHUM RW  
SUBJECT: RPF LEANS TOWARD NATIONAL CONFERENCE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. RPF WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE ENDORSED A PROTECTION FORCE BUT NOT AN INTERPOSITION FORCE. HE SAID

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THERE WAS NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT AT ARUSHA AND SUGGESTED A NATIONAL CONFERENCE COULD SET UP THE NEXT GOVERNMENT. HE CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DEAL WITH THOSE KILLING RWANDAN CIVILIANS AS THEY DEALT WITH HITLER AND URGED ARREST, TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM. END SUMMARY.

PROTECTION NOT INTERPOSITION  
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3. RPF WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, DR. CHARLES MURIGANDE, IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION 5/4 WITH AF/C, ENDORSED A FORCE TO STOP THE MASSACRES IN RWANDA BUT CATEGORICALLY REJECTED ONE THAT WOULD IMPOSE A CEASEFIRE AND ENCOURAGE THE RPF TO NEGOTIATE WITH "KILLERS." HE SAID THE RPF OPPOSES ANY FORCE THAT WOULD GIVE THOSE KILLING THE RWANDAN POPULATION A WAY OUT OR A FUTURE ROLE IN RWANDAN POLITICS.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR KILLERS  
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4. MURIGANDE SAID HE WANTED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HOLD THE PEOPLE KILLING THE RWANDAN POPULATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTS. CITING RUDOLPH HESS ARRESTED IN LONDON DURING WORLD WAR II, HE SAID MEMBERS OF RWANDA'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ARRESTED, TRIED AND SENTENCED FOR THEIR DEEDS, NOT RECEIVED AS IF ON A PEACE MISSION, AN OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CURRENTLY PUTTING THEIR CASE TO EUROPEAN LEADERS.

NOTHING TO NEGOTIATE  
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5. AF/C TOLD MURIGANDE THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE IN ARUSHA BUT NOT TALKING TO EACH OTHER. MURIGANDE SAID THAT THE ARUSHA ACCORD HAD RESOLVED ALL THE ISSUES AND THAT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO NEGOTIATE. BESIDES, HE SAID, THE RPF CANNOT TALK TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE GONE ON RECORD AS BEING AGAINST THE PEACE PROCESS AND WHO HAVE KILLED RWANDAN CIVILIANS. HE SAID THEY SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS THE WORLD DEALT WITH HITLER: FIGHT THEM UNTIL THEY ARE DEFEATED. HE CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESPOND AS IT RESPONDED TO HITLER.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE?

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6. AF/C SUGGESTED THE RPF WOULD HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE IN THE GOR IT COULD TALK TO IN ORDER TO SET UP A GOVERNMENT BOTH SIDES CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE. MURIGANDE DEMURRED, SUGGESTING THAT MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUERY, MURIGANDE ASSURED AF/C THE RPF HAD NO INTENTION OF PUTTING A GOVERNMENT INTO PLACE

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UNILATERALLY. INSTEAD, HE SAID, A NATIONAL CONFERENCE COULD BE TASKED TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE WHO COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT CALLED FOR IN THE ARUSHA ACCORD.

COMMENT  
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7. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER MURIGANDE'S MENTION OF A NATIONAL CONFERENCE IS CURRENT RPF POLICY. HOWEVER, THE IDEA OF A NATIONAL CONFERENCE HAS BEEN HOVERING IN THE BACKGROUND SINCE MULTI-PARTY POLITICS BEGAN IN 1991. THE FORMATION OF RWANDA'S FIRST COALITION GOVERNMENT IN 1992 AND THE ARUSHA NEGOTIATIONS PUSHED THE IDEA INTO THE BACKGROUND. INDEED, AT THE END OF THE ARUSHA TALKS, SEVERAL DELEGATES FROM BOTH SIDES WERE SAYING THAT ARUSHA WAS, IN ESSENCE, RWANDA'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS, THE ARUSHA ACCORD INCLUDES THE IDEA OF A NATIONAL CONFERENCE. THE RPF AND OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE ALWAYS SEEN THE CONFERENCE FORMAT AS A POSSIBLE FORUM FOR EXAMINING ABUSES OF PAST REGIMES.

8. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

CHRISTOPHER

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